

From: Lucy Day
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 10:51pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I am a third year undergraduate student at the University of Chicago and an American citizen. I am writing because I am outraged at the mistreatment of a truly great producer: Microsoft.

I love Microsoft's products. I have used Microsoft's operating system (Windows), browser (IE), office software (Word, Outlook, Excel), business software (Access), and programming software (Visual Studio, FrontPage). This is an extremely powerful and useful set of tools, and a set of products which far surpasses anything marketed by Microsoft's competitors.

Microsoft is part of my life: my schoolwork, my job, and my recreation. I want to be able to choose to keep buying and using such products. No one in the computer industry or the government should make them have to change what they sell, or share it, or charge less for what they produce.

A successful business like Microsoft is an enormous benefit to the consumer, not a threat. Microsoft offers consumers a trade: their products for our dollars. No one is required to choose Microsoft: each consumer makes his own decision. I do not ask that everyone agree with my choice, only that everyone be allowed to choose. When people do choose Microsoft, as they have done in enormous numbers, Microsoft should be lauded, not blamed.

The people who blame Microsoft for its success are the ones who can't succeed. Microsoft's competitors dragged Microsoft to the courts, not Microsoft's customers. To let the worst producers chain and persecute the best ones is not only unjust, but disastrous for the industry and its consumers. I truly hate to think what the world would be like if Microsoft were picked apart by its jealous, inferior competitors.

Not only would industry standards fail, entrepreneurs in any field will lose hope and forsake ambition. Penalizing Bill Gates for his innovation and effort is no way to encourage future generations of

businessmen and inventors. His customers have given him his hard-earned rewards -- and in a free society, he would be allowed to keep them. America is home of the self-made man; it is home of the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; it is the home of the right to the property one has earned; it is the home of a government designed to protect that property.

The government should leave Microsoft free to do business with its customers and partners.

Sincerely,
Lucy Day Werts